

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, HU

SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF US-EE GTRADE
RELATIONS AND SZITA VISIT TO US

COMMERCE FOR BOWDEN (BEWT)

1. HUNGARIAN PRESS HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO
THE US VISIT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS
INSTITUTE PRESIDENT JANOS SZITA. ALL DAILIES WITH EXCEPTION
OF NEPSZABADSAG NOTE SZITA'S VISIT WITH AMBASSADOR EBERLE,
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT BOOTH, AND MENTION THAT WHITE
HOUSE DINNER GIVEN IN SZITA'S HONOR BY OMB DIRECTOR ASH.
MOST EXTENSIVE COVERAGE, AS USUAL, APPEARS IN ECONOMIC
DAILY VILAGGAZDASAG WHICH DEVOTED MARCH 16 LEAD ARTICLE
TO EAST-WEST TRADE CONFERENCE HELD IN NEW YORK FROM
MARCH 11-15, AND SZITA'S SPEECH AT THIS CONFERENCE. SAME
ARTICLE QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM REMARKS BY ACTING BEWT
DIRECTOR BOWDEN ADVOCATING THE NEED FOR AN EARLY
GRANTING OF MFN TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND CITING EFFORTS
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MADE BY SECRETARIES KISSINGER, SCHULTZ AND DENT TO

FIND A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THIS QUESTION.

2. COMPANION ARTICLE MARCH 16 VG REPORTS ASSURANCES GIVEN BY NEW EXIM BANK PRESIDENT CASEY THAT DESPITE RECENT RULING BY GAO AFFECTING EXIM CREDITS TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, THERE WOULD NOT BE A STOP IN FLOW OF "NEEDED FUNDS" CONNECTED WITH ALREADY APPROVED LOAN PROJECTS. SAME ARTICLE NOTES POSSIBILITY OF COMPROMISE ON TRADE BILL WHICH WOULD PERMIT ADMINISTRATION TO GRANT MFN TO THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES -- WHILE GIVING CONGRESS A MUCH EXPANDED ROLE IN AUTHORIZING EXIM CREDITS TO THESE COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT: PRESS TREATMENT OF SZITA VISIT, DEBATE SURROUNDING TRADE BILL, AND QUESTION OF EXIM BANK CREDITS REFLECT CONTINUING INTENSE HUNGARIAN INTEREST IN NORMALIZING COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH US AND SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASING VOLUME OF BILATERAL TRADE. THIS EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE HAS ALSO HELPED TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF COMPLEXITIES OF MFN ISSUE AND MOST CONCERNED HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS, WHILE HOPING FOR EARLY FAVORABLE ACTION, DO NOT NOW EXPECT MFN QUESTION TO BE RESOLVED IN 1974.

4. EMBASSY WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE RECEIVING REPORTS ON SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SZITA AND USG OFFICIALS.
PEDERSEN

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